

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GEORGE 01159 021856Z

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /056 W

-----030240Z 041025 /75

R 021700Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4737

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 1159

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SOCI, GY, PROP

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM'S SPEECH AT YOUTH RALLY

SUMMARY: IN SPEECH AT MASS RALLY OF YOUTH TO MARK END OF YOUTH WEEK, PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF DISCIPLINE IN MOLDING YOUNG PEOPLE WHO WILL COMPLETE SOCIALIST REVOLUTION HERE. BURNHAM POINTED OUT THAT AGRICULTURE IS BASIS FOR GUYANA'S PROGRESS, AND HE ANNOUNCED THAT WORK STUDY PROGRAMS WILL BE DEVELOPED TO FAMILIARIZE YOUTHS WITH NECESSARY SKILLS AND RESPECT FOR DIGNITY OF LABOR. YOUNG PEOPLE MUST ALSO BE PREPARED TO DEFEND THE REVOLUTION. BURNHAM IS APPARENTLY TRYING TO INSTILL IN YOUTH UNDERSTANDING OF PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS OF SOCIALIST REVOLUTION. EMPHASIS ON DISCIPLINE WHICH HAS CHARACTERIZED RHETORIC HERE FOR PAST SEVERAL MONTHS REFLECTS WIDESPREAD CONCERN WITH BREAKDOWN IN RESPECT FOR AUTHORITY. END SUMMARY.

1. IN ADDRESS TO YOUTH RALLY MAY 27 TO MARK END OF YOUTH WEEK, PM BURNHAM TOLD YOUTHS AND TEACHERS THAT THEY MUST DEVELOP SKILLS FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION SINCE
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AGRICULTURE IS BASIS OF GUYANA'S ECONOMY. BURNHAM ANNOUNCED THAT A FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE WILL BE ESTABLISHED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GUYANA THIS YEAR TO PROVIDE TRAINING AND GEORGETOWN SCHOOLS GRADUALLY WILL BE RELOCATED ON LADS WITH AMPLE SPACE FOR AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES. WORK STUDY PROGRAMS WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO SCHOOL CURRICULUMS TO INSTILL STUDENTS WITH RESPECT FOR

DIGNITY OF LABOR SO THAT THEY DO NOT EMERGE FROM SCHOOL UNPRODUCTIVE HALF-BAKED PSEUDO-INTELLECTUALS.

2. BURNHAM EMPHASIZED THAT YOUNG PEOPLE OF TODAY WILL BE REVOLUTIONARIES OF TOMORROW. YOUNG PEOPLE MUST THEREFORE PLAY RESPONSIBLE PART IN NATION-BUILDING AND SHOULD NOT BE PARASITES AS THEY WERE DURING COLONIAL ERA. IF THEY ARE TO PARTICIPATE IN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS, YOUTHS MUST BE DISCIPLINED. THE IMPORTANCE OF PUNCTUALITY AND GOOD MANNERS WAS STRESSED. BURNHAM EXPLAINED THAT NATIONAL SERVICE (NS), SCHOOLS, AND YOUTH GROUPS MUST INSTILL YOUTHS WITH UNDERSTANDING OF GREATNESS AND HISTORY OF GUYANA. YOUNG PEOPLE MUST BE TRAINED IN ARTS AND SKILLS NECESSARY TO "DEFEND YOUR COUNTRY SUCCESSFULLY AGAINST INTRUDERS FROM ONE DIRECTION OR ANOTHER, INCLUDING THE DIRECTION OF THE ATLANTIC OCEAN."

3. COMMENT: BURNHAM'S REMARKS FOCUSED ATTENTION ON THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO DEVELOP IN YOUTH PROPER SOCIALIST ATTITUDES TOWARDS DISCIPLINE, WORK, AND AUTHORITY. WHEN DISCUSSING YOUTH PROBLEMS, OBSERVERS HERE OFTEN REFER TO YOUTHFUL STREET CRIME, RAMPANT DISOBEDIENCE IN SCHOOLS, INDIFFERENCE OF YOUTHS TOWARDS POLITICS, AND THEIR POOR WORK HABITS. THE EMPHASIS ON DISCIPLINE, WHICH APPLIES TO ADULTS AS WELL AS YOUNG PEOPLE, MAY REFLECT REALIZATION BY BURNHAM THAT EFFORTS SO FAR TO DEVELOP POLITICALLY AWARE AND HARD-WORKING REVOLUTIONARIES HAVE MET WITH LIMITED SUCCESS. DURING HIS SPEECH, BURNHAM REFERRED SEVERAL TIMES TO THE FACT THAT HE IS GROWING OLDER. HE WANTS TO

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ENSURE THAT THE REVOLUTION HE HAS BEGUN WILL TAKE HOLD AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY BLACK YOUTHS, SO THAT THEY WILL NOT BE ARM-CHAIR SOCIALISTS, BUT PRACTICAL SOCIALISTS IN THEIR DAILY ACTIVITIES AND ATTITUDES.

4. EMBOFFS WHO HAVE OBSERVED BURNHAM CLOSELY AT SEVERAL FUNCTIONS DURING PAST TWO WEEKS HAVE NOTICED THAT HE HAS APPEARED TIRED. HECTIC MEET-THE-PEOPLE TOURS COUPLED WITH PRESSURE OF ECONOMIC CRISIS HAVE HELPED TO DRAIN HIS ENERGY BUT HE HAS MAINTAINED A NORMAL FULL-TIME WORK SCHEDULE.
BLACKEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: LABOR, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, SOCIALISM, SPEECHES, YOUTH GROUPS
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Sent Date: 02-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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Subject: PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM'S SPEECH AT YOUTH RALLY SUMMARY: IN SPEECH AT MASS RALLY OF YOUTH TO MARK END OF YOUTH WEEK, PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM STRESSED IMPORT
TAGS: SOCI, PROP, PGOV, GY, (BURNHAM, L F S)
To: STATE
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